

Canada-Vietnam Relations

Bilateral

- Canada established diplomatic relations with North Vietnam in 1973. North Vietnam was renamed the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in 1976 following official unification with the South.
- Vietnam reopened its embassy in Ottawa in 1990. In 1991, Canada opened an office in Hanoi; the mission was upgraded to an embassy in 1993. In 1994, Canada opened a trade office in Ho Chi Minh City, which will be inaugurated by International Trade Minister MacLaren during his November visit. The first Canadian resident ambassador arrived in Hanoi in September 1994, joining four Canada-based staff members. The opening of a new chancery in Hanoi is planned for the Prime Minister's visit.
- Canada has undertaken a policy of engagement with the government of Vietnam, encouraging the economic reform process and greater respect for human rights. While the bilateral relationship is expanding, Canada has made it clear that human rights remain an area of concern.
- Canada's Minister of Transport, Douglas Young, led a delegation to Vietnam in April 1994. High-level Vietnamese visitors to Canada within the last year have included the Minister of Trade and Tourism, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Justice Minister.

Trade and Investment

- Although Canada-Vietnam trade is modest — \$42.5 million in 1993, up from \$31 million in 1992 — there is considerable and growing interest among Canadian businesses in developing greater commercial ties with Vietnam. More than 200 Canadian business people and delegations have visited Vietnam in the last year.
- Canada is well placed to contribute to, and benefit from, the economic reforms under way in Vietnam. Canadian expertise and capabilities match Vietnamese requirements in areas designated for priority development, particularly in the transportation, telecommunications, and energy sectors.
- Major Canadian exports to Vietnam include pharmaceuticals, machinery and pulp; major imports from Vietnam consist of seafood products, apparel and apparel accessories.
- Canadian companies have invested \$25 million in Vietnam since 1988, placing Canada 15th among foreign investors.